

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the two paragraphs starting on page 5, line 3 with the following amended paragraphs:

Fig. 1 is a partial side/partial cross-sectional view, taken in the direction of the arrows along the section line 1-1 of Fig. 2, of a vacuum insulated heater assembly with a tubular inner member in accordance with the present invention; [[and]]

Fig. 2 is an end view of the vacuum insulated heater assembly of Fig. 1[[.]] ;

Please add the following paragraphs at page 5, line 9:

Fig. 3 is a partial side/partial cross-sectional view, taken in the direction of the arrows along the section line 3-3 of Fig. 4, of a vacuum insulated heater assembly with a non-tubular inner member in accordance with the present invention; and

Fig. 4 is an end view of the vacuum insulated heater assembly of Fig. 3.

Please replace the two paragraphs starting on page 9, line 23 with the following amended paragraphs:

In order to heat objects, the shape of the inner member [[14]] 14' (see Figs. 3 and 4) need not be tubular and the electrically connected coating 34 may not be deposited on a large portion of the major surface 36, as would generally be the case in the above-mentioned fluid heater

assembly 10. This would result in the heat radiating through the inner member [[14]] 14' and then away from the inner member [[14]] 14' in those portions of the inner member [[14]] 14' where there was no coating 34 on the major surface 36, into the space between the inner member [[14]] 14' and the outer member 12, through the outer member 12, and on to the object to be heated.

In application, and as shown in Fig. 1, the heating of the vacuum insulated heater assembly 10 may be controlled by way of a conventional temperature sensor 13a with associated conduction means 17a in the fluid stream, a temperature sensor 13b with associated conduction means 17b attached to a wall of the outer quartz glass tube 12, a simple flow switch 15 with associated conduction means 19 to energize the heater circuit when fluid is flowing, or other means conventional in the art.